

By: Birdwell, et al.

S.B. No. 30

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to ballot language requirements for a proposition seeking voter approval for the issuance of bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 45.003, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

(g) Notwithstanding Section 52.072, Election Code, the question of whether to approve the issuance of bonds for the construction, acquisition, and equipment of school buildings in the district and the purchase of necessary sites for school buildings may be submitted to the voters in a single ballot proposition, except that bonds for each of the following purposes must be stated in a separate proposition:

(1) the construction, improvement, or renovation of a stadium;

(2) the construction, improvement, or renovation of a natatorium;

(3) the construction, improvement, or renovation of another recreational facility other than a gymnasium;

(4) the construction, improvement, or renovation of a performing arts facility;

(5) the construction, improvement, or renovation of housing for teachers as determined by the district to be necessary to have a sufficient number of teachers for the district; and

1 (6) an acquisition or update of technology equipment,
2 other than equipment used for school security purposes.

3 (h) The question of whether to approve the issuance of bonds
4 for a building described by Subsection (g)(1), (2), (3), (4), or (5)
5 must be printed on the ballot as a separate ballot proposition
6 regardless of whether that building is proposed as part of the same
7 complex or building that contains traditional classroom
8 facilities. Each separate ballot proposition required by this
9 subsection must state the principal amount of the bonds to be issued
10 that constitutes the cost for construction of that portion of the
11 building or complex attributable to the building described by
12 Subsection (g)(1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) or to the traditional
13 classroom facilities, as applicable.

14 SECTION 2. Section 52.072, Election Code, is amended by
15 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read as
16 follows:

17 (e) In addition to any other requirement imposed by law for
18 a proposition, including a provision prescribing the proposition
19 language, a proposition submitted to the voters for approval of the
20 issuance of bonds or the imposition, increase, or reduction of a tax
21 shall specifically state, as applicable:

22 (1) with respect to a proposition seeking voter
23 approval of the issuance of bonds:

24 (A) the total principal amount of the bonds to be
25 authorized, if approved; and

26 (B) a plain language ~~[general]~~ description of the
27 single specific purpose ~~[the purposes]~~ for which the bonds are to be

1 authorized, if approved;

2 (2) with respect to a proposition that only seeks
3 voter approval of the imposition or increase of a tax, the amount of
4 or maximum tax rate of the tax or tax increase for which approval is
5 sought; or

6 (3) with respect to a proposition that only seeks
7 voter approval of the reduction of a tax, the amount of tax rate
8 reduction or the tax rate for which approval is sought.

9 (f) Each single specific purpose for which bonds requiring
10 voter approval are to be issued must be printed on the ballot as a
11 separate proposition.

12 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
13 to an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act.
14 An election ordered before the effective date of this Act is
15 governed by the law in effect when the election was ordered, and the
16 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.